

Speech by Y.B. Menteri Pelajaran,  
Datuk Hussein Onn, at the official  
opening of the Inservice Guidance  
Course for Headmasters and Teachers  
from Fully Residential Schools, at  
the Faculty of Science, University  
of Malaya on 2nd April, 1973, at  
3.30 p.m.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We gather here today to witness the  
launching of yet another of our many programmes  
for the improvement of education in this country  
The concept of Guidance and Counselling is becoming  
more accepted in many parts of the world. Your  
presence here today is testimony of our "belief in  
this concept as acceptable within the framework of  
our educational system.

2. I hope that this Guidance and Counselling course that you are about to attend will provide you with insight and motivate you to be more student - orientated and cognisant of individuality of traits Henceforth, you can be expected to be better teachers guides, mentors ana administrators. It is your responsibility to ensure that adolescent cultures are properly weaned into maturation and adulthood through understanding between those who learn and those who teach.

3. This leads us to the crucial question – "What can guidance and counselling do in these schools as a desirable supplement to the aims of education". I am given to understand that the twin processes of guidance and counselling are jointly aimed at focussing attention on problems that beset adolescents. Even more important still, they are geared to help individuals find solutions to problems – personal, educational and career wise •

4. Ladies and gentlemen. You will realise that we are watching all your progress very closely. We have spared neither effort nor money to set up your schools. A team under the leadership of a UNESCO expert has been specially commissioned to evaluate our project to establish fully residential schools. We just cannot afford to fail. We are aiming to accelerate the effort to meet the need of the necessary manpower for technological advancement.

5. The roles played by school administrators and counsellors are complementary. There need be no duplication of effort at all if everyone knows and plays his part well. Perhaps we can never over-emphasise the fact that school administrators and counsellors need each other in order to achieve any measure of success in their work.

6. I have been given to understand that the instructors for this course are drawn from a number of sources - like education departments, schools, MARA and the University of Malaya. This measure of interdepartment cooperation is laudable - indeed a vital asset in a developing country like ours.

7- I understand that during this course, you will have the opportunity not only of following the core content of Lectures relating to guidance and counselling its philosophy and technique, but that you would also have the opportunity of listening to specialists in their respective fields. They will provide you with a deeper understanding of a variety of problems, such as "Why are some adolescents so belligerent and pose behavioral problems?", "How does one detect whether a pupil is resorting to drug abuses?", and "How can we help the pupils towards decision making, and problem solving?". These and other similar problems I hope will be thoroughly thrashed out by the end of the course.

8. I am confident that this course you are attending is the first of a series of such courses to follow. It is important that you realise that subsequent to this course, the Ministry of Education will consider follow-up actions particularly in evaluation work to give us the guide we need for future reference and planning.

9. As pioneers in this field, you will naturally be called upon to advise and help us in similar programmes in the future. We place our confidence and trust in you to play your roles with dedication. We expect to get valuable feedback from you in the course of your work back in schools.

10. Ladies and gentlemen

I would like to congratulate the organisers of this course for their hard work and good planning I congratulate all course members for having been selected to take part in this programme. Lastly, though by no means the least, I wish to express my deepest appreciation to all the instructors for the services much sought for. I am personally interested in all your work and progress. You have my support morally and financially.

11. I now take great pleasure in officially declaring open this special inservice Guidance Course for Headmasters and Teachers from our fully residential schools.



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